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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Intelligence Community Staff

6 JUN 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD

FROM : John N. McMahon
Acting Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

SUBJECT: Intelligence Definitions

The Director of Central Intelligence is concerned that existing definitions of categories of intelligence are poorly suited to describe Community activities (including field activities). Request your comments on the following statements by 15 June 1977:

a. The DCI believes that the body of foreign intelligence knowledge can be subdivided into three categories: Political, Military and Economic. Other further subdivisions such as Geographic, Scientific and Technical, etc., are of interest only as they relate to the three basic categories. They are viewed against these categories. Giving them separate status only serves to create overlaps and confusion.

b. The DCI further believes that the body of foreign intelligence knowledge is one continuum which can be described on one extreme as "strategic" and on the other extreme as "tactical." In this continuum what will be tactical to one consumer will be strategic to the next lower level of consumer, and so on. The division between tactical and strategic then is a purely arbitrary one; it is based on the organization that collects the information on which

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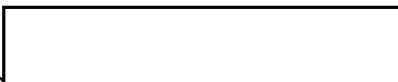
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the intelligence is based. That dividing line is such that tactical intelligence is that which is derived from information collected by assets under the direct control of a military commander.

c. The DCI further believes that the consumers of intelligence can very roughly and loosely be divided into the categories of national, departmental and tactical. The grouping national would have to include the public, the Congress, the President and the National Security Council; departmental would have to include not only the Cabinet level departments of the Federal Government but all agencies, bureaus, etc.; tactical would have to include all military commanders, ambassadors, Treasury agents, FBI, Secret Service agents, etc., from the Executive Branch.

d. The DCI proposes to promulgate these basic definitions in order to standardize terminology through the Community.

 
John N. McMahon

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NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD


NFIB-24.1/12
6 June 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD
FROM : Walter Elder
Executive Secretary
SUBJECT : Intelligence Definitions

1. The attached memorandum from the Acting Vice Chairman requests you review the statements contained in paragraphs a. through c. The DCI proposes to promulgate these basic definitions in order to standardize terminology through the Community.

NFIB ACTION REQUESTED

2. You are requested to submit your comments and concurrence to the NFIB Secretariat by close of business, 15 June 1977.


Walter Elder

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Attachment:
As Stated

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